In the Claims

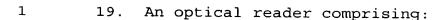
- 1 1. A method for operating an optical reader having an
- 2 image sensor, said method comprising the steps of:
- 3 clocking out at least one frame of image data in a low
- 4 resolution frame clock out mode of operation;
- 5 reading pixel values from said at least one frame
- 6 clocked- out in said low resolution clock out mode to
- 7 determine an operating parameter of said reader; and
- 8 utilizing said operating parameter in operating said
- 9 reader.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said low resolution
- 2 mode clock out step includes the step of clock out electrical
- 3 signals corresponding to some pixel values of said image
- 4 sensor at a higher than normal clock out rate so that an
- 5 overall frame clock out rate is increased.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said low resolution
- 2 mode clock out step includes the steps of clocking out some
- 3 rows of said image sensor array at a normal clock out rate and
- 4 other rows of said image sensor at a higher than normal clock
- 5 out rate.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said low resolution
- 2 clock out step includes the step of selectively clocking out

- sensor and not clocking out electrical signals corresponding
- to other pixels of said sensor. 5
- The method of claim 1, wherein said image sensor 1
- includes a discharge function actuated by activation of a 2
- discharge control signals, wherein said low resolution mode 3
- clock out step include the step of intermittently activating
- said discharge control signal while clocking out a frame of
- 6 image data.
- The method of claim 1, wherein said operating
- parameter is an exposure parameter value.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating
- parameter is an illumination intensity value. 2
 - The method of claim 1, wherein said operating 1
 - parameter is an illumination on-time value. 2
 - The method of claims 1, wherein said operating 1
 - parameter is an amplifier gain parameter value. 2
 - 1 The method of claim 1, wherein said operating 10.

- l parameter is a dark level adjustment value.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating
- 2 parameter is a light level adjustment value.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step
- 2 of decoding a decodable symbol representation represented in a
- 3 frame of image data developed utilizing said operating
- 4 parameter.
- 1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said frame clocked
- 2 out in said low resolution frame clock out mode is clocked out
- 3 to produce a low resolution parameter determination frame of
- 4 image data in which valid and invalid data zones are defined
- 5 by rows of said image sensor.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said image sensor
- 2 includes a one frame buffer and wherein said low resolution
- 3 clock out step includes the step of clocking out three frames
- 4 of image data in a low resolution frame clock out mode.
- 1 15. A method for operating an optical reader having an
- 2 image sensor, said method comprising the steps of:
- 3 switching operation of said reader to a low resolution



- in said low resolution mode, clocking out electrical
- 6 signals corresponding to some pixel values of said image
- 7 sensor at a higher than normal clock out rate so that an
- 8 overall frame clock out rate is increased.
- 1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said clock out step
- 2 includes the steps of clock out some rows of said image sensor
- 3 array at a normal clock out rate and other rows of said image
- 4 sensor at a higher than normal clock out rate.
- 1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein said image sensor
- 2 includes a discharge function actuated by activation of a
- 3 discharge control signals, wherein said clock out step include
- 4 the step of intermittently activating said discharge control
- 5 signal while clock out a frame of image data.
- 1 18. A method for operating an optical reader having an
- 2 image sensor, said method comprising the steps of:
- 3 switching operation of said reader to a low resolution
- 4 mode of operation; and selecting in said low resolution mode,
- 5 clocking out electrical signals corresponding to some pixels
- 6 of said image sensor and not clocking out electrical signals
- 7 corresponding to other pixels of said image sensor.



- 2 an imaging assembly having an image sensor;
- a controller, wherein said controller is adapted to clock
- 4 out at least one low resolution frame of image data, wherein
- 5 said controller is adapted to read pixel values from said at
- 6 least one low resolution frame of image data to determine an
- 7 operating parameter of said reader, and wherein said
- 8 controller is adapted to utilize said operating parameter in
- 9 operating said reader.
- 1 20. The reader of claim 19, wherein said controller
- 2 develops said low resolution frame of image data by clocking
- 3 out electrical signals of said frame at a higher than normal
- 4 rate.
- 1 21. The reader of claim 19, wherein said controller
- 2 develops said low resolution frame of image data by not
- 3 clocking out electrical signals corresponding to some pixels
- 4 of said frame.
- 1 22. The reader of claim 19, wherein said operating
- 2 parameter is an exposure parameter value.

- parameter is an illumination intensity value. 2
- The method of claim 19, wherein said operating 1
- parameter is an illumination on-time value. 2
- The method of claims 19, wherein said operating 1
- parameter is an amplifier gain parameter value.
- 1 The method of claim 19, wherein said operating
- parameter is a dark level adjustment value.
- The method of claim 19, wherein said operating 27.
 - parameter is a light level adjustment value.
 - The reader of claim 19, wherein said controller is
 - further adapted to decode a decodable symbol representation 2
 - represented in a frame of image data developed utilizing said 3
 - operating parameter.
 - The reader of claim 19, wherein said imaging 1
 - assembly includes an illumination assembly.

- 1 30. The reader of claim 19, wherein said illumination
- 2 assembly includes white LEDs.